



Flood Advisory Committee

Minutes of January 28, 2010 Meeting

- **The** first meeting of 2010 for the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) was called to order by Mayor Mark Smith at 7:30 PM in room 108 of the Cranford Municipal Building.
- **The** following people were in attendance:
Mayor Mark C. Smith, Commissioner David Robinson, Township Engineer Rick Marsden, Gregory Sgroi, Ellen Hunt, Ed Trush, Mike Pender, C. John DeCotiis, and Louis Lambe.
- **The Minutes of the December 3, 2009 FAC meeting** were distributed and individuals in attendance given the opportunity to comment on or correct them. Three corrections were noted. Stipulating these updates, Mayor Smith requested a motion to accept the final minutes for December 3, 2009. A motion was offered by Ms. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Pender. Subsequently, the minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting were accepted by the attending members of the committee.
- **Mayor Smith** announced that Commissioner Dan Aschenbach will head the effort to encourage the county to keep us in mind for their consideration for open space funding. Over the years, Cranford has contributed money and land to the program and now needs the county's consideration and assistance to secure a piece of land for our Pump Station. Messrs. Sgroi, Trush, and DeCotiis will serve on this committee and assist the commissioner in this effort. Mr. Trush suggested that if we are going to do this then our efforts should be focused on 112 Park Drive. Mr. Marsden reminded the committee that we also need to provide for the outfall structure and perhaps we can trade the space left over from the house at 112 Park for another part of the park to place the outfall structure.
- **Township Engineer Update:** Mr. Marsden explained that he has not had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Mineo about the county's activities on the dikes. Also, there is no update from Mr. O'Connor of the USACE.
- **USACE Feasibility Study Update:** Mayor Smith spoke with Anthony Scena and reported that the State of New Jersey has agreed to match the USACE with \$300,000 for a total of \$538,000 with which we can accomplish a great deal of work. Mayor Smith asked if there was any money earmarked for the 2011 budget and was told that the President's budget will come out on February 1 and it is expected that our project will not be a named one. Subsequently we will have to lobby our legislators to make sure that our project is included. We will need an approximate \$2,000,0000 of additional funding to finish the study and about 6-10 years to complete the project. Mr. Marsden added that the plans for construction of whatever is proposed will be a separate effort altogether which will not take place until after the study is completed. Mr. Trush understood the timeline differently and would like Mr. O'Connor to clarify his comments made at the October 22, 2009 meeting regarding the timeline for potential completion of the various stages of the project. Mayor Smith and Mr. Marsden suggested that we get Mr. O'Connor to come to our upcoming meeting and requested that we provide them with any questions that we may have for Mr. O'Connor a week in advance of our February meeting to give him the opportunity to prepare appropriately.



Flood Advisory Committee

● *Flood Advisory Committee Goals for 2010:*

1. *U* Update and Improve the CFAC Website
2. *P*roduce a half hour television show for TV 35 which educates the public about flooding in Cranford without creating a scare or adversely affecting property values.
3. *F*ind a way to advance 2B to compliment the now operational pump station. The PS without 2B could create a false sense of security since only a limited amount of the storm sewers along the river are actually connected to it.
4. *A*ggressively pursue funding for the NE Quadrant project.
5. *A*ggressively pursue funding for the phase 5 Pump Station and location.
6. *P*ush for the completion of the USACE study.
7. *A*ttend a Union County Freeholder Meeting with the USACE's support.
8. *I*nstall curbing along the dike on Riverside to protect the pump station.

● *Comments:* Mr. Sgroi stated that he is not convinced that focusing our attention on the alteration of the control structure is not a viable endeavor which can be handled separately. Mr. Marsden stated that altering the control structure without reviewing the original analysis used in the design is not advisable. Mr. Marsden added that this has been handed over to the county and we await their feedback on the idea of augmenting the orifice. Ms. Hunt informed the committee that she received her 2010 flood insurance bill and in light of her increased cost for premiums, requested an update of the Community Rating System efforts. Mayor Smith regrettably reported no progress. Mr. Lambe questioned whether it were possible to use the residual funding from the Pump Station Construction project to start 2B and fund the balance by bonding or perhaps do as much of 2B as we can afford and wait for other funding opportunities to present themselves to do the balance of the work. Given the current economic climate, the likelihood is good that the bids received would be very competitive and could likely serve to stretch our funding. Mr. Pender offered a quick review of what would be involved based on his understanding of the project and agreed that a partial effort should be possible. He added that he would like the committee to make curbing along the dike a priority as well. Commissioner Robinson offered to look into the possibility of seeking bids with the township attorney and report back to the committee.

● *Mr. Sgroi* made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Hunt at 9:10PM.